

Community Involvement

**All truly great thoughts are
conceived by walking.**

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

The *Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan's* Community Involvement Program (CIP) will help produce a vision, foster consensus and promote community ownership. These objectives can be accomplished if the Community Involvement Program is carefully woven into the fabric of the master planning process. The City seeks to inform and educate

participants and to ensure that their recommendations are objectively considered and integrated into the Plan where appropriate.

As community involvement is pivotal to this plan's process and subsequent implementation, this CIP offers a number of avenues for comprehensive participation. The specific methods include:

- Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force
- Staff Steering Committee
- Community Workshop
- Community Draft Plan Presentation
- Additional Community Outreach
- Final Community Comment
- Website
- Post Development Community Involvement

Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force

A Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force will be created in order to include key stakeholders in the development of this Plan. The Task Force will consist of interested persons solicited through public announcements, and will convene regularly during the plan's development to review and make recommendations on draft documents.

Staff Steering Committee

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In addition to the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force, a Staff Steering Committee will be created. It will consist of representatives from various departments of the City of Clearwater. Committee members should include representatives from the City Manager's Office, Planning, Public Works, Economic Development, Equity Services, Legislative Services, Parks and Recreation, Fire, Police and Legal departments. The Staff Steering Committee will review and make recommendations on both draft and final documents.



Master Plan Task Force

Community Workshop

This CIP includes a series of Community Workshops that are designed to present the Master Plan development process, the existing bicycling and walking conditions and to solicit public input for the identification of specific locations for desired facilities.

The Community Workshops will be held at strategic locations between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. This large time frame affords greater flexibility for the participants.

Each Community Workshop will utilize a conversational station format that encourages participation. The conversational station format fosters discussion and dialogue, as participants circulate from one topic station to another. Participants typically make more comments and ask more questions in smaller group settings, rather than traditional large, classroom style meetings.

Each Workshop will have five sequential topic stations located around the room, allowing people to participate at their own pace. Participants will have the opportunity to understand the importance of bicycling and walking in context to our greater community, while commenting and assessing current conditions. They will also be asked to locate

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their specific bicycling and walking concerns. Staff and Task Force members at each station will explain the topic information, answer questions, and encourage comments from participants. In addition to promoting discussion, the station format encourages valuable community input. At each station, participants are invited to record comments.

The following describes each of the five stations in more depth.

1. Welcome

This first station provides an introduction to the Community Workshop. It includes registration and a brief presentation by a staff member describing the opportunities that exist at each station.

2. Bicycling and Walking Benefits

This station demonstrates the various benefits of bicycling and walking activities for both individuals and the community. Benefits such as health and fitness, quality of life, and improved air quality as well as mobility choice will be presented.

This station will also distribute a brief user survey designed to gather information that relates to current levels of cycling and walking in the City of Clearwater.

3. Existing Bicycling and Walking Conditions

This station provides graphics and maps of existing bicycling and walking conditions and facilities within the City of Clearwater. Participants will have the opportunity to view bicycle and pedestrian collision data and the findings of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Level of Service analysis.

This station will also include the distribution of two surveys that will gather information relating to the public's desired target Bicycle and Pedestrian Level of Service. The surveys will be collected, compiled and summarized. The findings of these surveys can be used to guide the Task Force and Staff Steering Committee in the selection of a target Bicycle and Pedestrian Level of Service.

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4. Goals and Objectives

At this station, the draft goals and objectives that were developed by the Task Force specifically for the City of Clearwater's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan will be presented. There will also be an opportunity for participants to suggest additional objectives for each of the specific goal categories.

5. Community and Neighborhood Needs

Outreach for the Community Workshop will be conducted by the City of Clearwater's Parks and Recreation Department. The outreach process will include press releases, invitations to key stakeholders, flyer distribution and website and listserv postings.

Participants will be given the opportunity to identify the challenge areas and suggest desired modifications for their respective neighborhood, or citywide, that may improve walking and bicycling conditions. Each participant will be given a neighborhood map and fifteen dots (five for pedestrian- related projects, five for bicycling- related projects and five for trail projects) to place on a map to note their desired facility modification location. Participants will also be asked to provide a brief written description for each dot, directly on the map. Every dot in each segment within a corridor will be considered as one "vote". After the workshop, the Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator will compile, summarize and tally dots and participant comments. These comments will be considered when assessing infrastructure modification needs during development of the Implementation Plan.

Community Draft Plan Presentation

Another conversation station format event will present the components of the draft plan to the public. Additional comments will be evaluated and added prior to presenting to the Parks and Recreation Board, ADA Advisory Board, Community Development Board and the City Council.

Outreach for this presentation will also be conducted by the City of Clearwater's Parks and Recreation Department. This outreach will also include press releases, invitations to key stakeholders, flyer distribution and website and listserv postings.

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This community presentation will also be held at a strategic location, between the hours of 4:30 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., to allow greater flexibility. The number of stations and their content will be determined as the process progresses.

Additional Community Outreach

Public comment will be solicited by the City of Clearwater throughout the Plan's progress. The Pedestrian and Bicycle Coordinator will distribute and collect any user surveys, Bicycle and Pedestrian Level of Service surveys and information regarding desired facility modifications if participants are unable to attend the Community Workshops, until the date of the workshop.

Final Community Comment

Meetings of the Parks and Recreation Board, the ADA Advisory Board and the Community Development Board, provide stakeholders and public participants will have their final opportunity to review the work products and provide final comments. These comments will be collected, compiled and summarized, and will be considered during the final revision process of the Master Plan.

Website

In addition to the above community outreach efforts, the public will have access to meeting notifications, workshop materials, and project deliverables on the City of Clearwater Parks and Recreation Department's website.

Post Development Community Involvement

To ensure the successful implementation of the *City of Clearwater Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan*, it is important to maintain post-development community involvement. It is recommended that the Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan Task Force continue to meet regularly to oversee implementation of the Plan.

Conclusion

This CIP includes numerous approaches that will achieve and garner community participation.

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The resulting, carefully crafted Community Involvement Program is critical to the implementation efforts and overall success of the *City of Clearwater's Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan*.